



# Partners For Parks

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Dear Parks Partner:

Partners for Parks is a collaboration of Lakewood service organizations, community groups, educational institutions, military partners and local businesses that come together for the purpose of assisting in the improvement of Lakewood area parks. We have raised funds and volunteered to clean up parks and improve the quality of life for Lakewood residents and visitors.

Partners for Parks would like to express our support of the Harry Todd Waterfront Improvement project. We understand the issues related to this area. Tillicum is economically, socially and geographically isolated. Over 5,000 people live in the Tillicum neighborhood and 91% are considered by HUD to be low income and 94% of the children attending the local elementary school are on Free or Reduce lunch. Harry Todd is the only public park in this area. The families living in this neighborhood need safe, free and accessible places to visit and play. Improving this site is extremely important to the health and well-being of this community.

Healthy people need healthy spaces. Today, children spend less time playing outdoors than any previous generation, a fact that is having disastrous consequences on their health. More than one third of children and adolescents are currently overweight or obese.

The proposed waterfront improvements at Harry Todd Park will provide both new and improved public access to the water and enhance the shoreline for fishing, swimming, rowing, picnicking and other water related recreation. Adding new docks, a fishing pier and new restroom building will make a significant difference for park visitors.

Again, we wholeheartedly support this grant and we encourage you to support this effort too.

Sincerely,

Sally Saunders, President